

Energy Action Committee
Zoom Meeting, 04/5/2021, 19:41

Present: Paul Heanue (PH), Mike Kacherovich (MK), Brad Moyer (BM), and Michael Reive (MR)

Absent: Mark LeBel (ML) and Beth Porter (BP)

The meeting began with a review of the minutes from the previous meeting. MR recommend several changes to the minutes. BM incorporated those changes, and then the minutes were unanimously approved.

BM next provided an update on the Task Force and the public info session to be held on April 28th at 7:30pm. He noted that the Task Force would provide an overview of the warrant articles as well as the contours of a climate action plan at the session, and that it would be recorded for review.

MR then gave an update on Green Communities and grant funding. MR reviewed the ~\$142K grant Hingham received, and the expenditures at the various school buildings. Unfortunately, the Town has not yet carried out those projects, making the Town ineligible for competitive grant funding in April. However, the Green Communities program is allowing for a second grant application in the fall. BM asked if it is possible that all funds could run out in April, and MR indicated that many towns are being capped to give other towns an opportunity, and so there should be money reserved in the fall. PH then asked where the funds come from. MR mentioned that Green Communities grants are funded by carbon allowance auction proceeds from the multi-state Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI - a cooperative effort among the states of Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, and Vermont) to cap and reduce power sector carbon dioxide emissions, and through Alternative Compliance Payments by electricity suppliers that fail to meet their renewable energy portfolio requirements. MR then continued, noting that the Town may need Energy Source to come back and perform energy audits of the Weir River Water System because, at the time the audits were done, the system was not owned by the town. Hingham can use an administrative grant to help pay for the energy audit, and a competitive grant to add the water system. Furthermore, there is money for hybrid police vehicles. For South Shore Country Club projects (e.g., the maintenance shed and inground pool), because they are new construction, and there are existing structures that have efficiency projects in the original designated project list for Hingham, the existing structure projects would need to be targeted first. MR will follow up with Mass DOER and also reach out to Michelle Monsegr.

Lastly, BM gave an update on the Public Safety Facility Building Committee (PSFBC). He noted that he was coordinating a visit by the EAC to one of the PSFBC meetings, and that he was actively discussing with Bob Garrity, chair of PSFBC, when such a meeting could occur.

The next meeting was scheduled for May 17th at 7:30pm. The meeting adjourned at 20:21.